

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim ~~3~~; add new claims 8-10; and amend claims 1, 2 and 4-7.

510 C1 1 (Amended) A device for creating a spread-out stream of tobacco fibers, comprising:
a concave-curved guide track along which the fiber stream of tobacco fibers are conveyed, the guide track having a generatrix based on a uniform curve, a portion of the concave-curved guide track being formed by a convex sliding surface; and
at least one air nozzle having an air flow opening interrupting the guide track so that air exiting the nozzle acts in a conveyance direction of the fiber stream for spreading out the tobacco fibers, wherein the nozzle has a downstream wall, in relation to the conveyance direction of the fiber stream, which makes a transition into the concave sliding surface of the guide track in a steady convex curvature.

2. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide track has a width, and the at least one nozzle terminates in the sliding surface and extends continuously over the width of the guide track.

B2 310 C2 4. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the at least one nozzle comprises a plurality of nozzles following each other in the conveying direction of the fiber stream and that interrupt the sliding surface.

5. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 4, further comprising a common pressure chamber connected with the plurality of nozzles.

6. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 4, wherein the guide track comprises a plurality of individual guide track segments having respectively adjoining border surfaces that form nozzle walls of the nozzles.

7. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein the guide track segments comprise extruded sections, whose wall sections, which border the sliding surface of the guide track, form an upstream nozzle wall and the downstream nozzle wall, in relation to the conveying direction, at two successive nozzles.

8. (New) A device for creating a spread-out stream of tobacco fibers, the device receiving tobacco from an inlet portion and supplying tobacco to an outlet portion, comprising:
a concave-curved guide track along which the fiber stream of tobacco fibers are conveyed, the guide track having a sliding surface extending from the inlet portion to the outlet portion, the sliding surface being formed with a generatrix based on a uniform curve; and
at least one air nozzle having an air flow opening interrupting the sliding surface so that air exiting the nozzle acts in a conveyance direction of the fiber stream for spreading out the tobacco fibers, wherein the nozzle has a downstream wall, in relation to the conveyance direction of the fiber stream, which makes a transition into the concave-curved guide track in a steady convex curvature.

3
b 9. (New) The device of claim 8, wherein the guide track comprises discrete guide track elements.

10. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the nozzle has an upstream wall and the guide track has a width, wherein adjacent guide track elements define the upstream and downstream walls of the nozzle, the nozzle being continuous over the width of the guide track.
